

This I Believe Essay

Truth, Not Perfection in Writing

As secondary three students we are all given an essay to write about our own personal beliefs, and I went into a state of depression. I moaned loudly about not having any personal beliefs; fretted over the fact that my belief might not impress the teacher, and even resorted to searching the web for some complicated beliefs I have never heard of. All the pain I took in hope of having a perfect score for the assignment. Then I saw the words “authentic and heartfelt belief” smiling at me from the paper, and I finally decided to push the scores and grades aside, and simply just write. Does it matter if I don’t get the perfect score that I want? What I need to write is a genuine belief, not a perfect belief.

In my struggle to write a perfect essay, I might have lost my true passion and ceased to hold true to my own beliefs. I believe I am not the only one facing this problem of trying overly hard to do well—just yesterday my classmate tore up her essay twice in exasperation. However, I believe that when it comes to writing an essay, especially one that is meant to be personal, we should not fret unnecessarily over the grades and fabricate some complex beliefs that we have no interest in just for the sake of scoring well. Who is going to have interest in your essay when you don’t have any interest in it yourself? I believe in the genuine passion for writing; the authentic and heartfelt words I type; and the joy felt with each sentence typed.

Here I quote my tuition teacher, “To express, not to impress. To communicate, not to inundate.” This is my belief in ten simple words. In writing, I write both for myself and others, and the most crucial point is for them to understand and connect with me emotionally—to feel what I feel, to see what I see, to hear what I hear. Half-baked philosophies and complicated beliefs will pale in comparison to the genuine simplicity of essays which portray true emotions and beliefs. Writing should not be competitive—each piece of writing is a piece of art by itself, expressing the thoughts and feelings of its writer. As we cannot compare each individual’s thoughts and feelings, we cannot compare writings either as they are the written forms of such. I have faith in my belief; because it is uniquely mine and even if no one feels for it as much as I do, I will still hold fast to it.

With a relatively relaxed mind I wrote this essay, hoping that I would somehow scrape a good score, and prove to myself that my belief of truth, not perfection in writing is right. I will set the scores and grades aside, voice my own belief and assure myself that

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someone somewhere shares my view and believes in my belief. Truth in writing, this I believe.